UNITED
NATIONS

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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/24732
29 October 1992

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 27 OCTOBER 1992 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF SOUTH AFRICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to enclose a copy of a letter dated 27 October 1992 from the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. R. F. Botha, concerning the South African Government's position on the recent election in Angola and its aftermath. The original signed copy will be forwarded in due course.

I should be grateful if the letter and annexure could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) V. R. W. STEWARD
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

92-66135 3550f (E) 291092

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Annex

Letter dated 27 October 1992 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of South Africa addressed to the Secretary-General

Your Excellency,

The elections envisaged for Angola in the Biscesse Accords of 31 May 1991 have taken place and the results have been announced. It was a personal privilege for me to have been present on the occasion of the official announcement. Moreover, I was pleased to have experienced at first hand the culmination of the first democratic expression by the Angolan people of their desire for peace. In this regard I believe that UNAVEM II led by your Special Representative for Angola, Miss Margaret J. Anstee, played an important role. UNAVEM was obliged to operate under the most difficult and trying circumstances, but succeeded in carrying out its mandate as well as could be expected in the circumstances.

I attach a statement which I issued on 23 October 1992, containing the South African Government's point of view regarding the elections.

The South African Government will continue to call upon all parties in Angola to pursue the democratic ideal by peaceful means and not to resort to violence or the threat of force to secure their objectives. All leaders will be encouraged to work towards national reconciliation as their highest priority.

The South African Government is convinced that this objective continues to be of the greatest importance for the future peaceful political development of Angola. It will actively encourage the leaders of Angola to follow that path, without which the much needed reconstruction of Angola and its economic development also in the wider regional context will not materialize. In my personal meetings with both President dos Santos and with Dr. Savimbi, the President of UNITA, during the past two weeks, I have consistently brought the message home to them and I will continue to do so in the future.

I would like to thank you for your support for efforts to break the deadlock that occurred immediately prior to the announcement of the election results. You responded in a positive and constructive manner at a critical moment in convening the Security Council which issued an important statement calling for moderation and support of the political process.

Angola has taken the first steps along a road which will no doubt be arduous and fraught with potential conflict. It is therefore important that the country be assisted to the maximum extent possible. The United Nations presence in Angola, despite the relatively small numbers of personnel involved, served an important purpose. It is clear to me, however, that the

United Nations presence will have to be increased substantially for the second round of presidential elections if the deficiencies and suspicions which marred the last elections are to be avoided.

(Signed) R. F. BOTHA

Enclosure

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
MR. PIK BOTHA; GABORONE: 23 OCTOBER 1992

The South African Government has noted that in her public announcement of 17 October 1992, Miss Margaret J. Anstee, the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for Angola and Head of UNAVEM II, has certified that despite the deficiencies and irregularities of the Angolan elections which were held on 29/30 September 1992, they could be considered to have been generally fair and free.

The problems included the non-registration of potential voters; reports of intimidation; slow progress in forming the new Angolan armed forces; complaints of partiality on the part of Government-controlled national radio and television; and allegations of mistakes, irregularities and fraud. While conceding these deficiencies and irregularities, the United Nations believes they were mainly due to human error and inexperience.

The South African Government accepts the findings of the United Nations Secretary-General's Special Representative on the outcome of the Angolan elections, and is satisfied that Miss Anstee and the personnel of UNAVEM II have succeeded as well as could have been expected in the circumstances, in monitoring and verifying the elections in accordance with resolution 696 (1991).

The South African Government remains concerned, however, that the problems encountered in the elections of 29/30 September 1992, may continue to cast doubt on the legitimacy of the outcome, and, in order to avoid a repetition, calls on the United Nations to make additional personnel available for the monitoring and verification of the second round of the presidential election.

The South African Government renews its appeal to all political leaders in Angola to respect and support the results of this important phase of the implementation of the peace agreements, and, to urgently further the peace process in Angola on the basis of the following principles:

- the renunciation of force as a means of attaining political objectives, and

- a strong, irrevocable commitment to dialogue and discussion.